

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (FEGLI)

If an employee elected to participate in FEGLI, survivors are entitled to life insurance benefits. If the employee assigned ownership of the insurance (usually by filing a RI 76-10, Assignment of Life Insurance), OFEGLI will pay:

- First to the beneficiary(ies) the assignee(s) validly designated;
- Second, if none, to the assignee(s).

If the employee did not assign ownership and there is a valid court order on file with the agency, OFEGLI will pay benefits according to the court order.

If the employee did not assign ownership and there is no valid court order on file with the agency, then OFEGLI will pay:

- First, to the beneficiary(ies) designated on a valid SF 2823, Designation of Beneficiary FEGLI;
- Second, if none, to the widow or widower;
- Third, if none of the above, to the employee's child or children and the descendants of any deceased children (a court will usually have to appoint a guardian to receive payment for a minor child);
- Fourth, if none of the above, to the employee's parents in equal shares, or the entire amount to the surviving parent;
- Fifth, if none of the above, to the court-appointed executor or administrator of the estate;
- Sixth, if none of the above, to other next of kin entitled under the laws of the State where the employee lived.

If the amount payable is less than \$7,500, the beneficiary will receive a single check for the entire amount. If the amount payable is \$7,500 or more, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, administrator of the FEGLI program, will open a Money Market Option Account for the beneficiary with a checkbook for access to the money.

BENEFITS FROM THE CSRS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Spousal Survivor Benefits Under CSRS

1. Eligibility Requirements For Spousal Benefits.

An employee and surviving spouse must meet certain eligibility requirements before a spousal survivor annuity benefit is payable. The employee must have:

- Completed at least 18 months of creditable civilian service; and
- Died while subject to CSRS deductions.

For a survivor annuity to be payable to a spouse, the spouse must meet one of the following requirements:

- The surviving spouse and the employee must have been married for at least 9 months; or
- A child was born of the marriage; or
- The death of the employee was accidental.

In addition to the above requirements, there can be no court order awarding the total survivor annuity to a former spouse. If a former spouse was awarded only a part of the total survivor annuity, the surviving spouse will receive the remainder.

2. Amount of Spousal Benefits.

A spousal survivor annuity is 55% of an annuity computed as if the employee had retired on a disability retirement as of the date of death.

Survivor benefits to the spouse of a deceased CSRS Offset employee are the same as the benefits payable upon the death of an employee with full CSRS coverage until and unless the survivor becomes eligible for Social Security survivor benefits. A surviving spouse who is not entitled to Social Security survivor benefits continues to receive full CSRS survivor benefits.

3. Creditable Service for Calculation of Spousal Benefits.

a. **Redeposit Service.** Redeposit service is service for which retirement deductions were withheld and later refunded. No credit is given in the computation of the survivor benefit for refunded service unless the survivor redeposits the refund plus any interest due. This includes refunded service performed before 1 October 1990.

b. **Deposit Service.** Deposit service is service for which retirement deductions were not withheld, but the service is potentially creditable toward retirement. If the nondeduction service was performed prior to 1 October 1982:

- The nondeduction service is fully creditable for computation purposes.
- If the deposit is not made, the amount of the annuity earned by the employee, that is used to determine the survivor's annuity is reduced by 10% of the deposit due.

If the nondeduction service was performed on or after 1 October 1982:

- The nondeduction service is not used for service credit in the computation of the survivor benefit unless the survivor makes the deposit.
- The nondeduction service can be used for high-3 average salary purposes.

c. **Military Service.** Military service performed after 31 December 1956 is subject to Social Security taxes and is primarily creditable toward a survivor's Social Security benefit, if any. Military service performed after 31 December 1956 can be credited for both Social Security and CSRS survivor benefits if a deposit is paid. The military deposit for a CSRS employee is 7% of the deceased employee's military base pay earned during the post-1956 military service plus interest, if applicable.

- 1) If the deceased employee was first employed under CSRS before 1 October 1982 survivors who are eligible for Social Security survivor benefits in the future may:

- (a) Avoid a reduction in survivor annuity benefits when they become entitled to Social Security survivor benefits based on the deceased employee's military service, making the military deposit before final adjudication of the claim; or
- (b) Receive credit for the post-1956 military service in the CSRS spousal survivor benefit computation without making the military deposit until they become entitled to Social Security benefits based on the deceased employee's military service (generally at age 60). When the survivor becomes entitled to Social Security survivor benefits, the post-1956 military service will be eliminated from the computation and the spousal survivor annuity reduced.

2) If the deceased employee was first employed under CSRS on or after 1 October 1982, a surviving spouse must make a deposit for the deceased employee's post-1956 military service to have the service credited in the computation of the survivor benefit from the commencing date. The deposit requirement applies whether or not the survivor is eligible for Social Security survivor benefits at the date of death or at any later date. If the deposit is made, the military service will be used to compute both CSRS and Social Security survivor benefits.

4. Duration of Spousal Benefits. An annuity to the surviving spouse of an employee begins on the day after the employee's death. The exception to this is when the entitlement to an annuity depends on the birth of a posthumous child. Benefits begin on the day after the child is born.

A survivor annuity to a widow or widower ends on the last day of the month proceeding the month in which he or she:

- Dies, or
- Remarries prior to age 55. For remarriages occurring after 1 January 1995, if the widow or widower remarries before age 55, and was married for at least 30 years to the individual on whose service the survivor annuity is based, the survivor annuity will not be terminated.

Children's Benefits Under CSRS

1. Eligibility Requirements for Children's Benefits. If a child meets the eligibility requirements, monthly survivor benefits for children are pay if the employee:

- Completed at least 18 months of creditable civilian service; and
- Died while subject to CSRS deductions.

To qualify for a survivor annuity, the child (including a legally adopted child) of a deceased employee must:

- Have been dependent on the employee at the time of death;
- Be unmarried; and
- Be:
 - Under age 18;
 - Age 18 to 22 and a full-time student; or
 - Over age 18 and incapable of self-support due to a disability incurred before age 18.

2. Amount of Children's Benefits. The children's survivor benefit is a specific dollar amount that is established by the formula in law and is increased by CSRS cost of living adjustments. This benefit is payable in addition to any survivor annuity payable to a spouse. The following rates apply from 1 December 2000 – 30 November 2001.

- a. Single Orphan Rate. When the child has a living parent who was married to the employee, the benefit payable to that child is the lesser of:
 - 1) \$369 per month per child; or
 - 2) \$1107 per month divided by the number of eligible children
- b. Double Orphan Rate. When the child has no living parent who was married to the employee, the benefit payable to that child is the lesser of:
 - 1) \$442 per month per child; or
 - 2) \$1326 divided by the number of eligible children.

3. Duration of Children's Benefits. A child's survivor annuity benefits begin on the day following an employee's death or, in the case of a posthumous child, on the day following a child's birth. A survivor annuity to a child under 18 ends on the last day of the month preceding the month in which the child:

- Marries,
- Dies; or
- Becomes 18.

In the case of a child over 18 and attending school, the annuity ends the last day of the month preceding the month in which the child:

- Marries;
- Dies;
- Ceases to be a student;
- Transfers to a nonrecognized school;
- Begins attending school less than full-time;
- Fails to submit proof, upon request, that he or she is attending school full-time;
- Enters military service or government service academy; or
- Becomes age 22.

Lump Sum CSRS Retirement Benefits

If there is no survivor who is entitled to a monthly survivor annuity benefit, the total lump-sum credit in the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund will be paid to the beneficiaries designated on a valid SF 2808, Designation of Beneficiary CSRS. If there is no SF 2808 on file, beneficiaries will be determined using the order of precedence listed on the back of the form.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS (FEHB)

If an employee had a self and family enrollment on the date of death and a survivor annuity is payable, the surviving spouse/child can continue health insurance coverage. The premiums will be

deducted from the survivor annuity. If the annuity is inadequate to pay the premium the survivor may make direct payment to Office of Personnel Management.

If the employee had self and family enrollment on the date of death and no survivor annuity is payable. The enrollment terminates and the survivor has the right to convert to an individual policy within 30 days but is not eligible for Temporary Continuation of Coverage.

If an employee has a self-only enrollment on the date of death the enrollment terminates with no right to enroll or convert for the survivor.

BENEFITS FROM THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

TSP Service Office will distribute an employee's account to the beneficiaries designated on a valid TSP-3, Designation of Beneficiary TSP. If there is no TSP-3 is on file, beneficiaries will be determined using the order of precedence listed on the back of the form.

Spouses may elect to receive a single lump sum payment or to roll the entire account balance into an Individual Retirement Account.

UNPAID COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Unpaid compensation is any additional compensation that was earned, but not paid. It includes unpaid salary, a lump sum payment for annual leave, unpaid travel vouchers, amount due as a refund of salary deductions for U. S. Savings Bonds and payment for any earned compensatory time.

Unpaid compensation benefits are paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to the beneficiaries designated on a valid SF 1152, Designation of Beneficiary Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Civilian Employee. If there is no SF 1152 on file, beneficiaries will be determined using the order of precedence listed on back of the form. Unpaid compensation benefits are paid in a lump sum.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

"Privacy Act Notice. We are authorized to request this information under 5 U.S.C. Chapter 84. Executive Order 9397 authorizes us to ask for your Social Security number, which will be used to identify your account. You are not required by law to provide this information, but if you do not provide it, it may not be possible to process the actions you request on this Web site."